



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,857	11/02/2001	Sha Li	22682-06281	9239

758 7590 06/07/2006

FENWICK & WEST LLP
SILICON VALLEY CENTER
801 CALIFORNIA STREET
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94041

EXAMINER

PEYTON, TAMMARA R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/033,857	Applicant(s) LI ET AL.	
	Examiner Tammara R. Peyton	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 January 1969.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species 1, claims 1-16 are directed to a method of synchronizing control responsive to the current event command being associated with a particular event command selected from the predetermined event commands, enabling one or more of the devices to perform the particular event command by transmitting a schedule command followed by a valid command to the devices, the valid command causing one or more of the devices intended to perform the particular event command, and the schedule command indicating predetermined time for the particular event command to be performed.

Species 2, claims 17-29, 52, and 68, are directed to controlling an operation to be performed at a predetermined time responsive to a determination that the operation may be activated, enabling activation of the operation at the predetermined time, wherein the first command includes an identifier indicating at least one device communicatively coupled to the host device and intended to perform the operation at the predetermined time, and wherein the second command comprises a validation signal indicating that the operation may be activated as intended.

Species 3, claims 30-33 are directed to activating a set of predetermined events to be performed by initializing the operational cycle; loading data into a memory by accessing a device disposed

Art Unit: 2182

externally relative to the memory, the data comprising a to-do list of the predetermined events and corresponding time-tags in increasing order; initializing an indicator representing a current event by associating the current event with a first event of the list of predetermined events after loading data into a memory; and enabling activation of the predetermined events by recursively determining whether the current event matches one of the time- tags...transmitting a second command to cause activation of the particular event, and adjusting the indicator to represent a current event next in sequence.

Species 4, claims 34-38, and 51 are directed to enabling activation of at least one event by awaiting the first command to be received from the host device, and determining whether the first command has been received; interpreting the first command for data included therein; extracting a parameter from the data; determining whether the parameter matches a predetermined identifier; responsive to the parameter matching the predetermined identifier, listening for a second command received from the host device, the second command validating the activation of the event; and responsive to the second command being received, causing the activation of the event at the predetermined time, wherein the parameter comprises a module identifier and the predetermined identifier comprises a device identification parameter associated with a destination device.

Species 5, claims 39-50, 67, and 68 are directed to retrieving data associated with a plurality of predetermined events to be performed by one or more of the devices; associating a current event in turn with the predetermined events; responsive to the current event being associated with a

Art Unit: 2182

particular event of the predetermined events, transmitting a first command to the devices; each of the devices receiving the first command transmitted; each of the devices interpreting the first command to determine one or more intended devices where the particular event can be performed; transmitting a second command to the devices; each of the devices receiving the second command transmitted; and responsive to the second command received, the intended devices enabling activation of the particular event at the predetermined time.

Species 6, claims 53-63 are directed to a video processing system, comprising:

a processor coupled to a controller, said controller communicatively coupled to a first bus; a host device transmitting signals to the first bus, the host device comprising a plurality of inputs communicatively coupled to the controller, a first output transmitting schedule commands to the devices, and a second output transmitting a validation command to the devices; and one or more devices coupled to receive the signals from the first bus.

Species 7, claims 64-66 are directed to video processing system enabling activation of at least one event performed at a predetermined time as controlled by a host device, comprising:

processor means coupled control means communicatively coupled to a first bus;

host means transmitting signals to the first bus; and one or more client means coupled to receive the signals from the first bus.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP 5809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentability distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

Art Unit: 2182

application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammara Peyton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4157. The examiner can normally be reached between 6:30 - 4:00 from Monday to Thursday, (I am off every first Friday), and 6:30-3:00 every second Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin, can be reached on (571) 272-4156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3718. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Mailed responses to this action should be sent to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231.

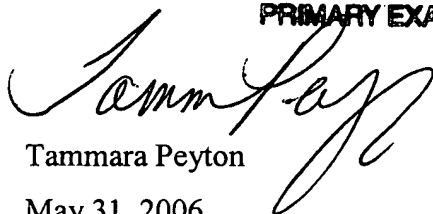
Faxes for Official/formal (After Final) communications or for informal or draft communications (please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT") sent to:

(703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

USTPO, 2011 South Clark Place, Customer Window
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby Room 1B03, Arlington, VA, 22202Crystal Park II, 2121.

**TAMMARA PEYTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**



Tammara Peyton
May 31, 2006